



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

February 25, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE - COUNTY-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

This memorandum is to provide the status of seven proposals for legislative sponsorship, which the County is pursuing as part of the first year of the 2011-12 Legislative Session. Three proposals are the result of Board motions and four proposals are new recommendations submitted by County departments consistent with Board-approved policy. The Sacramento advocates were successful in securing authors for these proposals prior to the February 18, 2011 deadline for bill introductions. Each County-sponsored proposal is discussed below. This update also provides the status of two legislative proposals for which the County did not secure authors, but is currently supporting similar legislation.

Board Motions to Pursue County-Sponsored Legislation

AB 259 (Smyth) – Qualifications for Public Defender (Board Action – August 10, 2010). As introduced on February 7, 2011, would expand the job qualifications for applicants to the position of county public defender to include sitting or retired judges, judicial commissioners, magistrates, referees, or elected public officials. This measure is currently in the Assembly Judiciary Committee awaiting a hearing.

SB 62 (Liu) - Enhanced Homeowner Notification Program (Board Action – December 15, 2009). As introduced on January 3, 2011, would enhance the County's existing Homeowner Notification Program to authorize the County to: 1) notify homeowners and renters subject to notices of default or sale; 2) collect a fee for

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notification upon the recording of a notice of default or sale; and 3) use a portion of the recording fee to provide information, counseling, or assistance to a person who receives the notice. These provisions would sunset on January 1, 2015. This measure is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee awaiting a hearing date.

SB 141 (Price) - Special Vacancy Election Reimbursement (Board Action – May 26, 2009). As introduced on January 31, 2011, would require the State to reimburse counties for elections to fill State and Federal legislative vacancies. This proposal would add provisions requiring that all expenses incurred to conduct elections called by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the office of State Senator, Member of the Assembly, United States Senator or Representative in Congress be paid by the State. The bill also states that when an election proclaimed by the Governor is consolidated with a local election, the State would pay only for those expenses directly related to the elections proclaimed by the Governor. SB 141 is currently in the Senate Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a policy committee.

New Recommendations for County-Sponsored Legislation

AB 396 (Mitchell) - Hospital Treatment for Detained Minors. As introduced on February 14, 2011, would provide medical coverage for detained juveniles who are admitted to a hospital for treatment and away from a county detention facility for more than 24 hours. This measure is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

AB 652 (Mitchell) - Initial Health Assessments and Forensic Medical Evaluations. As introduced on February 16, 2011, would specify that the costs of initial health assessments and forensic medical evaluations performed on children who are placed out of home due to suspected abuse or neglect shall be covered under the Medi-Cal Program, the Healthy Families Program or a licensed health care insurance plan. This measure is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

SB 194 (Senate Local Government Omnibus Bill) - Change Orders on County Road Contracts. As introduced on February 8, 2011, contains a County-sponsored proposal to increase the upper limit amount a board of supervisors may delegate to a county road commissioner or other county officer to order changes or additions in the work being performed under county road contracts from \$150,000 to \$210,000. This proposal also clarifies that these change orders may include additions to the work. The rest of the provisions contained in SB 194 do not directly affect County operations. This measure is set for a hearing in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on April 27, 2011.

SB 913 (Pavley) - Medical Consent for Detained Youth. As introduced on February 18, 2011, would clarify a chief probation officer's authority to consent to medical examinations or non-emergency care for youth detained in county juvenile detention facilities when the parent or legal guardian refuses or fails to respond to a request for medical consent. This measure is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

Legislative Proposal Unable to Secure Authorship

City of Vernon – Constitutional Amendment. On November 16, 2010, your Board directed the Sacramento advocates to pursue legislation authorizing a constitutional amendment that would: 1) specify that no more than 10 percent of a charter city's owned or controlled housing could be occupied by city employees, or individuals with a conflict of interest; 2) authorize a county or its community development commission to competitively bid the housing units for charter cities that exceed the 10 percent threshold; and 3) provide a mechanism to relocate any displaced families or individuals prior to the February 18, 2011 bill introduction deadline.

The Sacramento advocates were unable to secure an author for this proposal. However, based on your Board directive of December 14, 2010, the Sacramento advocates are supporting **AB 46 (J. Pérez)**, which would provide that every city with a population of less than 150 people as of January 1, 2010, would be disincorporated into those cities' respective counties as of 90 days after the effective date of the bill, unless a county board of supervisors determines, by majority vote within that 90-day period, that continuing such a city within that county's boundaries would serve a public purpose.

Proposals Included in Legislation Sponsored by Other Entities

AB 73 (Feuer) – Open Dependency Court Hearings. In the November 2, 2010 Sacramento Update, we advised your Board that the Sacramento advocates would pursue County-sponsored legislation to establish a three-year pilot project to allow members of the public to be admitted to juvenile dependency court hearings. The pilot project would allow hearings to be closed if the court determines it is in the best interest of the child who is before the court as a witness or party, and would also require that a report be submitted at the conclusion of the pilot project to the Judicial Council and the California Department of Social Services evaluating the impact of open court hearings.

As introduced on December 21, 2010, AB 73 is a spot bill which expresses the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to open juvenile dependency court hearings to the public unless the court finds that admitting the public would not be in a child's best

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interest. AB 73 is authored by Assembly Member Mike Feuer, Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

AB 73 cites legislative intent and must be amended to address specifics for open dependency court hearings. Consistent with existing Board policy to pursue legislation to open juvenile court dependency hearings, the Sacramento advocates support AB 73. In addition, the Sacramento advocates are working with the author's office and Assembly Judiciary Committee staff on the bill language which is being drafted by County Counsel. There is no recorded support or opposition to AB 73 at this time.

An informational hearing is scheduled for March 1, 2011 by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on the general issue of open dependency court hearings, titled Options for Improving Outcomes for Foster Children by Increasing the Effectiveness of Dependency Hearings. A representative of the Department of Children and Family Services is expected to speak in support of open dependency court hearings during the public comment.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:RM:IGEA:sb

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
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